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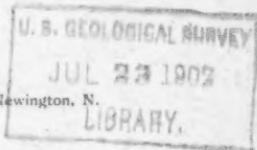
No. 10.



BRIGHTON EXCURSION.—Page 133.

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
Library Assistants' Association.

Edited by
H. TAPLEY SOPER,
Public Library, Stoke Newington, N.



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The Library Assistant:

The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 55.

JULY, 1902.

Published Monthly

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. SEVENTH SESSION. YEAR 1901-1902.

Members are requested to read carefully the announcements appearing on this and the following pages, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements may be expected.

ANNUAL MEETING.

On Wednesday, June 18th, by kind invitation of Mr J. Y. W. MacAlister, the Seventh Annual Meeting of the L.A.A. was held, at 20 Hanover Square.

There were over 50 members present. Mr. E. G. Rees having taken the Chair, the proceedings opened with the reading of the minutes of the Sixth Annual Meeting, and the Special General Meeting held at West Ham, on December 11th 1901, which were confirmed.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Annual Report, pointed out that during the past year steady progress had been made, both in the number of those who had paid subscriptions to the Journal, and those who had joined the Association, but regretted that out of the large number of Assistants throughout the Kingdom so small a proportion thought it worth while to join the Professional Association.

The Report having been adopted, the Chairman declared the following Officers elected, without opposition, for the ensuing Session :—

Mr. E. G. REES, *Chairman.*
" W. G. CHAMBERS, *Hon. Treasurer.*
" J. RADCLIFFE, *Hon. Sec.*

The result of the poll for the Committee was then declared to be as follows :—

LONDON MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

<i>Elected.</i>		<i>Not Elected.</i>	
Soper, H. Tapley ...	101	Philip, A. J. ...	58
Hogg, J. F. ...	90	Pocock, F. ...	51
Bullen, R. F. ...	83		
Green, T. ...	83		
Wood, R. B. ...	81		
Parsons, E. H. ...	72		
Wood, P. H. ...	72		
Burt, A. G. ...	71		
McDouall, W. B. ...	66		
Bradley, C. A. ...	63		

NON-LONDON MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

<i>Elected.</i>		<i>Not Elected.</i>	
Swann, J. H. ...	82	Pomfret, J. ...	53
Gordon, P. D. ...	77	Berry, W. H. ...	51
Quarmby, W. ...	74	Crockford, A. W. ...	50
Cunningham, W. ...	68	Ewing, J. C. ...	49
Stevenson, R. ...	67	Percival, H. ...	48
Harris, W. J. ...	64	Brown, J. W. ...	47
Hatcher, S. A. ...	63		
Baker, A. ...	57		
Montgomery, W. ...	57		
McKenzie, W. ...	56		

The Chairman then declared the result of the Cotgreave Prize Essay Competition, the winner being Mr. T. W. Glazier, of the "Tate" Library, Streatham, Mr. W. Harris, of the Hornsey Public Libraries, last year's prizeman, coming a very good second. The pseudonyms of the remainder of the competitors are set out below in order of merit as decided by the adjudicators:—Third—"Mercury," fourth—"Ferrex and Porrex," fifth—"Grapheus." For the Senior Prize there were only five entries, and the Chairman hoped that in future more interest would be taken in these competitions. The winner of the Junior Prize will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Peddie congratulated the Association on the Report, and thought it a sign of the increased interest taken in the Association that so much as one guinea had been paid for the first volume of *The Library Assistant*. He also noticed the growth of the professional library, and thought that 288 volumes collected in so short a time was highly satisfactory. The growth of the N.W. Branch was an especially bright feature, for the real hope of the Association lay in the Provinces, and he hoped to see the methods of branch organisation extended in the future.

There could be no doubt that the Association ought to have a majority of library assistants in its ranks. The Association has filled a place in the profession which was distinctly empty, and its monthly Journal is of great value because it is often able to touch on matters of great interest likely to be overlooked by other journals. He saw no reason why some of the papers should not be published in volume form, thus making a valuable addition to the professional literature. He congratulated the Association on its continued progress, and on the interest which was taken in it by men who were able and willing to help, and he pointed out that if any member had bright ideas his connection with it would bring him into contact with those who would help him to carry them out. Speaking of the educational work of the L.A., he said they had not done all they should have done—and the rest of the Litany. But he felt that until some radical alteration was made in the governing body of a certain Association, matters would continue as they were. He believed that a very large number of the members of the L.A. were agreed that something more should be done—and he thought they would get their way.

In accordance with the Agenda, Mr. W. G. Chambers then moved:—

"That the Resolution of the Special General Meeting of December 11th, 1901, altering the Annual Meeting from the Summer to the Winter Session, be, and is hereby rescinded."

This was seconded by Mr. R. B. Wood, and opposed by Mr. Pickard, who thought the Winter Meeting should be given a fair trial. He was supported by Mr. P. H. Wood. The motion was carried by 21 votes to 14.

Mr. F. Pocock then moved:—

"That in future a report of the meetings of the Committee of the L.A.A. be published in the *Library Assistant*."

This was seconded by Mr. Hatcher, but was opposed by Mr. Soper, who pointed out that there was little room for more matter in the Journal, and that it was not usual for proceedings of Committees to be published, though he supported the principle because they had nothing they wished to hide as suggested by a previous speaker. Any important work done by the Association is immediately published in some form or other. The motion was also spoken on by Messrs. Hogg, Pickard, Peddie and others, but was defeated by 21 votes to 11.

Mr. Thorne then moved a vote of thanks to the Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Parsons and carried unanimously.

Mr. W. G. Chambers in replying, said the work was often hard and made considerable inroads on time and pocket, but that

when their work was appreciated in the way it had been it became a pleasure.

A vote of thanks to Mr. MacAlister for the use of the room, moved by Mr. Rees, and seconded by Mr. Soper, having been carried with applause, Mr. Harris then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, and said that the success of a meeting very largely depended on the Chairman, and therefore he had the more pleasure in proposing this vote. This was seconded with some pleasing remarks by Mr. Hogg, and Mr. Rees briefly replied, and in thanking the Association for again electing him chairman said his work was always pleasant, though at times it was not easy. He had much satisfaction, however, in finding his efforts had been appreciated.

P. E. L.

N.W. BRANCH—MAY MEETING.

On Tuesday evening, May 27th, a meeting was held at the John Rylands Library, Manchester, on the kind invitation of Mr. H. Guppy (Chief Librarian). Ten members were present, and when assembled in the Bible Room Mr. Guppy gave a very interesting address on the Bible, and, in particular, the history of the English version. He expressed regret that the meetings of the Branch were not better attended, and said that apart from the educational value to be derived, the members who endeavoured to attend regularly, thereby showing interest in their occupation, would necessarily come under the favourable notice of librarians at whose libraries meetings were held, and thereby increase their chances in the future.

Turning to the subject of the evening, Mr. Guppy pointed out the pre-eminent position of the Bible in literature, which, apart from any theological considerations, renders it a book of whose history every librarian and assistant ought to have a satisfactory knowledge.

Something should be known of the various codices, of the principal translations—especially the English version—and of the chief results of the searching criticism to which the Bible has been subjected in modern times.

Dealing with the history of the English version, Mr. Guppy referred briefly to the partial translations made by Bede, King Alfred, Richard Rolle and others; then coming to Wycliffe's translation he pointed out that it is now held to have been partly done by Wycliffe's friend, Nicholas of Hereford. This translation was made from the Latin Vulgate. A contemporary manuscript copy was shown.

The version by John Tyndale was the next to be considered, and Mr. Guppy went into considerable detail in telling the life

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Applications to be made to the Editor.

story of this remarkable and not fully appreciated man. The spread of the New Learning in Europe brought with it the Greek Testament of Erasmus, the Brescia Hebrew Bible, and the Complutensian Polyglot, and with the facilities given by the art of printing greatly increased the study of the Bible among scholars. John Tyndale desired to render it accessible to the English people in their own tongue, and after much persecution he lost his life in the endeavour. His translation of the New Testament (1525) was made direct from the Greek. In 1537 appeared the "Matthew" Bible which was edited by John Rogers, Tyndale's literary executor, and contains Tyndale's translation of the Pentateuch and New Testament, and a translation of Joshua to the 2nd Book of Chronicles also, in all probability, by him. Tyndale's work was thoroughly done and forms the basis of the later versions, including the Authorised (1611) and the Revised, thus making an organic connection throughout. Time would not permit more than a brief mention of the later versions, but we venture to hope that Mr. Guppy will deal with those on another occasion. The splendid collection of Bibles, one of the glories of the Library, enabled Mr. Guppy to illustrate his address in a striking manner.

Owing to the holiday season there will be no meeting in July or August. The next being fixed for late in September, for date and place see August Journal.

J.H.S.

SUMMER PROGRAMME.

An afternoon excursion to Brighton will take place (provided that a sufficient number of promises to attend are received) on Wednesday, July 9th. The party will travel by the V.E.C.A. express, which leaves Victoria at 12.30 p.m., Clapham Junction at 12.35, and East Croydon at 12.50, arriving at Brighton about 2.30, and returning therefrom at 8.30, thus allowing 6 hours at the sea-side. A brake drive to the Devil's Dyke and back is proposed (fare 1/6), returning to Brighton in time for tea, after which the Royal Pavilion will be visited, a charge of 3d. per head being made for admission.

Unfortunately, the Library Buildings are still in the hands of the contractors, so the proposed visits to that institution and to the Museum and Art Gallery, must be abandoned.

Railway tickets (2/6) may be obtained in advance from Mr. W. B. Young, 63 Leslie Road, Leytonstone, E., or direct from the Secretary, V.E.C.A., 64 Cheapside, E.C. If purchased at the stations on the day, tickets will be 3/-.

Will all who intend joining the party kindly send their names to Mr. Young (if they have not already done so), together with an intimation as to the number of friends by whom they will be accompanied, at once, so that all necessary arrangements may be completed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[*The Editor solicits expressions of opinion on all matters of interest to the profession, but does not hold himself responsible for the views of correspondents. Communications should be written on one side of the paper only, and should be as brief as possible.*]

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.
Education Committee.

ST. SAVIOUR'S PUBLIC LIBRARY,
44a SOUTHWARK BRIDGE ROAD, S.E.
20th June, 1902.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed by the Education Committee to inform you that the statements contained in a letter signed "A London Library Assistant," which appeared in the June number of your journal, are in many cases erroneous, and, the whole subject being still *sub judice*, the publication of any facts is premature.

Yours faithfully,

The Editor, "Library Assistant." HENRY D. ROBERTS, Hon. Sec.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Among the few pleasures of life that fall to the lot of library assistants must certainly be counted the amusement they frequently derive from contemplating that source of innocent merriment—their chiefs. I am moved to this reflection by the announcement, in the June *Library Association Record*, of a proposed alteration of the bye-laws of that Association. It will be remembered that the *Sturm und Drang* of recent years culminated, at the Plymouth meeting, in a volcanic upheaval which violently ejected the Hon. Secretary from office and scattered his supporters to the four winds. The exciting agent was a suggestion to "automatically remove" what were picturesquely termed the old fogies of the Council by rendering, each year, a proportion of its body ineligible for re-election for twelve months, the members retiring by rota. But now these clamourers for new blood are in power, the idea that they themselves should be automatically removed does not appeal to them quite so strongly. Their idea of suitable subjects for removal is "the members who receive the least number of votes." This is a stroke of genius, worthy of ex-President Kruger himself! Naturally, at such elections, the members who tail the poll are the new members, the unknown new blood. These reformers, these "eight fresh young fellows," *vide* Mr. MacAlister, will be politely invited into the Council and as politely kicked out again in alternate years, while the old fogies who so strongly approve of this influx of new blood, will not be automatically removed but by the gentleman with the hour-glass and scythe!

"DIFFICILE EST SATIRAM NON SCRIBERE."

The Editor, "Library Assistant."

[To the Editor of "The Library Assistant."]

SIR,

I was very glad to see Mr. Greenwood's letter in your last issue. It would be a good thing if you were to give Mr. Carnegie's address* so that library authorities could write to him direct. I hope that Mr. Carnegie in making his gifts will not forget the Public Libraries already

* Skibo Castle, Sutherland, N.B. Ed.

established, and whose usefulness is crippled through having heavy loans to pay off.

To my mind those Libraries who adopted the Library Acts years ago, without any incentive in the shape of gifts, should be the ones to receive help. Unless this is done, Libraries now being established through Mr. Carnegie's munificence are on a better footing than the old ones, having no loans to pay, and are able to pay their Assistants better salaries. This should not be so. I hope, Mr. Editor, you will bring this before Mr. Carnegie.

I believe a certain English Library philanthropist refuses to help Libraries already established, only giving to places on condition that the Acts are adopted. To my mind this is wrong: help should be given to those who have helped themselves.

ASSISTANT.

STUDY CIRCLE—RESULTS OF FOURTH SESSION.

<i>Senior.</i>				<i>Junior.</i>			
<i>Name</i>	<i>Lit. Hist.</i>	<i>L. Pract.</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Lit. Hist.</i>	<i>L. Pract.</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Bala ...	270	180	450	Liber ...	275	200	475
Saturn ...	230	200	430	Y Byldwr ...	90	210	300
*Dust ...	68	40	108	*Poohbah ...	115	60	175
				*Critic ...	95	20	115
				*Thor ...	95	—	95

* 1 paper submitted

REPORT.—The work submitted for the Fourth Session of the Study Circle was of a good standard, and the adjudicators complain only of the low number of papers sent in. Throughout the Session "Saturn" has run "Bala" very closely for the top place, and although "Bala" secures the prize, his papers on Library Practice are not up to the standard of those from "Saturn."

The results of inconclusiveness are rather sharply marked in the Junior Division. "Poohbah's" papers for the first month were certainly as good as any, and a continuance of the same standard would perhaps have resulted in the acquisition of the prize.

As will be seen from the above schedule, the highest marks were obtained by "Bala"—Mr. A. Edwards (Liverpool), and "Liber"—Mr. F. Dallimore (Wigan), and the Committee declare these competitors prizemen for the Fourth Session.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Mr. Carnegie's Gifts.—During the past month we have been inundated with information from all parts of the country concerning the gifts of this munificent Croesus. It is said that the Court of Croesus was the Asylum of Learning. Mr. Carnegie appears to be desirous of outshining his classic prototype by carrying out the principle on a much larger scale. Surely if such generosity continues the United Kingdom will become a veritable land of pedants. Below is a list of donations

since our last issue, it is too much to hope that it is complete—such a compilation seems impossible—for before one's ink is dry more cheques are on their way to cheer the troubled hearts of Committees, trying to carry out on the mere pittance produced by a penny rate the noble ideas of a far seeing educationalist of the middle of the last century. But our legislators have not yet caught up to his cycle. This list tots up to the respectable sum of £77,500.

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Brierley Hill ...	£2,000	Patrick, Glasgow	£10,000
Kettering	£8,000	Poplar	£15,000
Lewisham	£9,000	Selly Oak	£3,000
Maidenhead ...	£5,000	Walkeley	£2,000
Merthyr Tydvil ...	£6,000	Workington ...	£7,000

Books, &c., received.—Owing to the pressure on our space we are compelled to leave over until our next issue the usual list and comments on the many books and pamphlets received during the past month.

Wolverhampton Conference.—Members and friends who intend to take part are requested to send in their names *immediately*. This meeting will take the form of a *one day* excursion, and will not extend to three or four days as generally supposed. Full particulars will be found in the June number. Final arrangements will be notified in the August issue.

APPOINTMENT.

SOPER, H. Tapley, Sub-Librarian, Stoke Newington, to be Librarian, City of Exeter.

The other selected candidates were Messrs. JONES (Cardiff), and HAGGERSTON (Norwich).

NEW MEMBERS.

Senior.—DOCKRAY, C. F., Salford. **Knight**, Miss L. E., Blackpool. **Junior.**—FRANCE, Miss E. Blackpool. HARRISON, Miss M., Blackpool.

APPOINTMENTS VACANT.

[**Notice to Library Authorities.**—We shall be pleased to publish under this heading, free of charge, particulars of vacancies if full details are sent to the Editor on or before the 28th of each month.]

NOTICES.

All matter for the August number should reach the *Hon. Editor* on or before 20th July.

All other communications should be addressed to the *Hon. Secretary*, MR. J. RADCLIFFE, Public Library, East Ham, E.





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